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UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Committee for Coordination of Investigations
of the Lower Mekong Basin
(Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Republic of Viet-Nam)

PLAN OF OPERATION (Belgium)

IMPROVEMENT OF NAVIGATION - HYDROGRAPHY

1. In the light of the hydrographic survey undertaken by the Mekong Committee with the assistance from the United Nations Special Fund and United States teams and with material support from New Zealand and the United Kingdom, the Government of Belgium has loaned the services of an expert in connection with the current five-year programme of work in navigation improvement included in the United Nations Special Fund Institutional Support of the Mekong Committee.

2. In this connection, the Government of Belgium appointed an expert for a period of two years from 15 October 1964 to 15 October 1966 under its Technical Assistance Programme. At the request of the Royal Government of Laos, the Government of Belgium has kindly agreed that the services of this expert under the current contract be extended to 1 July 1967, and that following his home leave after that date, his services would again be made available to the Committee for a further period of 16 months. In connection with this extension, the terms of reference of the expert will remain the same, i.e. he will conduct and report on a training programme including the following items :

/a)

a) organization of hydrographic teams;
b) hydrographic work in the field and in the office;
c) drawing of charts;
d) up-keep and maintenance of hydrographic equipment and instruments;
e) river marking and aids to navigation;
f) training in all activities related to the above subjects and recommended by the Committee.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM

3. The Government of Belgium will meet all the costs of the expert, including salaries, allowances, per diem, travel to and from the country of assignment and incidental expenses for the duration of the assignment under this Plan of Operation. Salaries and allowances shall be subject to Belgian tax legislation.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE RECIPIENT GOVERNMENT AND THE MEKONG COMMITTEE

4. The expert provided by the Government of Belgium shall be granted the following privileges and immunities:

a) Immunity from legal process in respect of all acts performed by him in the execution of the Project;
b) Immunity from national service obligations;
c) Immunity from immigration restrictions;
d) The privilege of bringing into the country reasonable amounts of foreign currency for the purpose of the Project or for personal use of the expert, and of withdrawing any such amounts brought into the country or, in accordance with the relevant foreign exchange regulations, such amounts as may be earned therein by the expert in the execution of the Project;
e) The same repatriation facilities in the event of international crisis as diplomatic envoys; and
f) Inviolability for all papers and documents relating to the Project.

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5. The recipient Governments shall either exempt or bear the cost of any taxes, duties, fees or levies which may be imposed by it on the expert in respect of :

a) The salaries, wages or allowances earned by the expert in the execution of the Project;

b) Any equipment, materials and supplies brought into the country in connection with the Project or which, after having been brought into the country, may be subsequently withdrawn therefrom; and

c) Any property brought, including one privately owned automobile if imported within six months after his return from home leave, for personal use or consumption or which, after having been brought into the country, may subsequently be withdrawn therefrom upon his departure. If despite this paragraph import duties are collected, then the Government making the collection shall make an equivalent cash payment to the expert.

6. The privileges and immunities referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 to which the expert is entitled may be waived by the Government of Belgium, where, in its opinion, such privileges and immunities would impede the course of justice and can be waived without prejudice to the successful completion of the Project or to the interest of the Expert.

7. The Government of Laos shall provide the following :

a) One counterpart officer primarily for liaison purpose;

b) Adequate office space, office equipment and didactic equipment and stationery for secretarial work and lectures;

c) Secretarial assistance;

d) Adequate means of transportation by road or river for the execution of his duties;

e) Housing allowance not exceeding the equivalent of 8,700 Kips per month.

8. The expert will be responsible to the Executive Agent through the Director of Navigation Improvement of the Mekong Committee.

/SIGNATURE

8. In witness whereof the undersigned, upon the instruction of the competent authorities of their respective Governments, have signed the present Plan of Operation.

Date : 30-12-66 (Signed) Khy Taing Lim
For the Government of Cambodia

Date : 24-10-66 (Signed) Phouangkeoh Phanareth
For the Government of Laos

Date : 3-10-66 (Signed) Boonrod Binson
For the Government of Thailand

Date:: 21-10-66 (Signed) Pham-Huu-Vinh
For the Government of Viet-Nam

Date : 18 Jan 1967 (Signed) J. Graeffe
For the Government of Belgium

Date : 5-1-67 (Signed) Kanwar Sain
Executive Agent
Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin